

We Are One

Hath not a Jew eyes? hath not a Jew hands,
organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? — Shakespeare.

Love seeketh not itself to please,
Nor for itself hath any care,
But for another gives its ease,
And builds a heaven in hell's despair.

— William Blake.

All Human Beings Are



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HUMAN QUESTIONS

Men know very well that all are one, but when it is said so, they ask, "How"? To answer this question, we have to answer another vital question: "Who are we?". Answers come as follows:

"Americans, Brazilians, Canadians, Dominicans, Egyptians, French, Germans, Hungarians, Indians " and so on. We know that they are talking about their nationalities and nations.

"Mongoloid, Negroid and Caucasoid" - but, this segregation is based on race theories.

"Indo-European, Semito-Hamitic, Sino-Tibetan, Dravidian, Ural-Altaic, Malayo-Polynesian, African-Negro, American-Indian, Caucasian..... " and so on. This groupism is based on language families.

"Christians, Confucianists, Hindus, Muslims, Jews, Shintos..... " This division is based on religion.

"Capitalists, Communists, Leftists, Rightists, Atheists, Rationalists..... " based on ideology.

"Upper, upper-middle, middle, lower-middle and lower"-based on social classification.

"Intelligent, excellent, good, average, mediocre, poor,..."-based on I.Q. And there may be more divisions and subdivisions based on various factors.

Thus, men are identified based on different factors not only as mentioned above, but also on the sensitive factors like culture, tradition, heritage and civilization. But, it can be easily noticed that all these factors are man-made.

Now, our study begins with an analysis of such factors that have made up the humanity and origin of human beings. If we go deep into the subject, the roots of ethnic origins and even roots of such roots can be found with insight leading to a common origin. At

the same time, we can also appreciate that when man-made factors divide humanity, nature unites with its inherent factors. Let us first deal with the dividing factors.

ETHNICITY OR RACE

Anthropologists customarily divide humanity into several ethnic groups or races based on physical differences and qualities observed among human beings. When going through such classification according to different scholars, we are surprised to know how the races and sub-races increase and overlap. According to C. Linnaeus (1735) there are four races— European, Asiatic, African and American; and according to Blumenbach (1781), five—Caucasian, Mongolian, Ethiopian, American and Malay. Huxley recognizes five principal and fourteen secondary races. Deniker (1900) makes provisions for seventeen groups—consisting of twenty-five races and sub-races. J.S. Huxley and A.C. Huddon have only three large groups, white, yellow and black races. Later, Garn (1961), Dobzhansky (1962), Boyd (1964) and others have given different classifications based on geographical, genetic and local factors. That is why perhaps one scholar rightly pointed out:

“.....as research proceeds deeper into ethnic origins, it will become progressively hypothetical and speculative to sink eventually in the realms of remotest history to the level of mere assumptions, feebly supported by facts”.¹

Such classifications definitely expose the pseudo-scientific character, as it looks much more scientific in Greek garb -

dolicocephalic, mesocephalic, brachycephalic, leiotrichi, cymotrichi, leuchoderms, xanthoderms and so on. The myth of race, blood and others have already been exploded scientifically. Now, the established facts are: All human beings in the world today, of all ethnicities and in all places, are biologically and genetically so much alike that they must have descendants of the same original stock of homo sapiens (wise man). In spite of all morphological variations, they all have similar twenty-three pairs of chromosomes with matching genes, and can mate to fertilise with one another to produce offsprings. Therefore, genetics, genetic engineering and biotechnology have proved that all human beings are one scientifically.

“The universe along with its creatures belongs to the Lord. No creature is superior to any other. Human beings should not be above nature. Let no one species encroach over the rights and privileges of other species”².

CULTURE

It is the sum-totalness of moral, physical and psychological interactions and exhibitions of men consistent with their tradition, heritage and civilization. Anthropogenetically, the culture of homo sapiens must be the same primordial culture. Even anthropologists have recognised 'cultural parallelism', i.e., the development of similar cultures in distant and non-related groups. But, now, we know how the majority of world population is in the grip of Western culture in the materialistic aspect, though not in the non-materialistic aspect. In spite of cultural conflicts and diversities, common and unifying cultural elements are still found

among the world community. Even if we go by the archaeological evidences, palaeontologists classify human history into Early Stone or Palaeolithic Age and Later Stone or Neolithic Age. Depending upon the material used, it is also divided into Stone, Bronze and Iron Periods or Ages. The assumption on which they proceeded was that man has steadily progressed from stage to stage of culture, by an even series of developments, beginning in the condition of the lowest savages. This 'savage to superman' concept is based on evolutionary theory. Here, no scholar has ever fixed time taken by men to progress from the usage of teeth to wood, wood to stone, stone to metal and metal to machine, even though 'modern man' was evolved some 40,000 to 5000 years ago³. Therefore, taking all factors into account, we can stress the underlying cultural unity of world population, in spite of their external diversities. In the transition of anthropoid to a human way of life, the evolution of language also plays an important role.

LANGUAGE

Linguists have estimated that at present there are approximately 3500 different languages spoken by human beings in the world. Nevertheless, certain common features and links have been explicitly and implicitly discerned in all this immense diversity. The Memorandum concerning Language Universals notes,

"Underlying the endless and fascinating idiosyncrasies of the world's languages, there are uniformities of universal scope".⁴

The common features are the physical homogeneity of all people, perception,

expression of thought through logical processes, phonetic make-up, sound reproduction, grammatical structure and lexicon. In addition, there are certain common laws of the construction and functioning of human speech affected by the thought processes. In every single language, the spoken word is a sign. The thought of one person can be made accessible to another, if it is conveyed in a sensually perceptible form, i.e., in the form of phonic signs, even though he may not be knowing his language. The theory of evolution does not explain properly the origin or evolution of human language or languages. If we go by the anthropogenesis, there must have been the primate/primordial/first language of men. Nobody has ever agreed that both the languages of ape and man should have also had the same origin like their ancestry, but, gone on to suggest that man's imitation of sounds he hears in his environment, including sounds heard from other animals, must be one of the roots of origin. Then it is not known how the classical languages evolved. The period of such evolution in the historical perspective has also not been fixed properly, though Western historians make much fuss about chronology. If science cannot explain properly the origin of language, naturally, other alternative has to be considered. In any case, if human beings have a common origin, definitely their language must have also had a common origin.

RELIGION

World religions are generally divided into semitic and non-semitic or Western and Eastern categories, because of their inherent theological, philosophical and spiritual approach. Judaism, Christianity and Islam

fall under the former category and Hinduism (including Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism), Zoroastrianism, Shintoism, Taoism, etc. under the latter category. And there are denominations in each religion. According to the claims of believers of religions, there are divine and man-made religions. If we take religions like Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Taoism, Islam and Sikhism, they can be traced back to the personalities like Buddha, Zoroaster, Christ, Lao-tse, Mohammad and Nanak, even though, such religions might have been developed by their disciples, followers or by themselves. According to the supporters of the theory of evolution, religion is man's reaction and fear towards natural calamities like fire, floods, volcanic eruptions, cyclones, diseases, etc. with established, but, superstitious code of scriptures, rituals and rites. Therefore, if we go by the divine origin or evolutionary theory, if at all the primate men had any religion, it must be the primordial and oldest religion. A true believer can easily understand the underlying unity of all religions. As all human beings have single origin, they should develop mutual respect for each other's religion and try to unite humanity.

TRADITION

It is a body of practices or social customs which have been handed down from the previous generations. It is generally conditioned by the religious and social factors. Again, anthropogenetically, the tradition of homo sapiens must be the same one.

HERITAGE

It is the sum total of biological traits transmitted by the parents and forefathers and the social transmission of customs,

folkways and mores from one generation to the next. Therefore, we can see how hereditary and environmental factors affect these traits of homo sapiens.

NATIONALITY AND NATION

According to modern political context, a 'nation' has historical and geographical myths about its traditional boundaries. Moreover, the concepts of 'nation', 'country' and 'state' are of recent origin. Based on these, one cannot say there were no nations and states before the formation of such concepts. The racial myths turned, ethnic hypotheses are exploited by the ideologies and theoreticians to rouse the passion of people. As the problems of the present day world are common, now they have started understanding the concept of 'world community'.

THINKING, FEELINGS AND BEHAVIOUR OF HUMAN BEINGS

Every human being has a brain, the mass of nervous tissue within the skull, common to all. Even scientists cannot say as to whether the mind is situated in the brain or heart or somewhere else. Thinking, a symbolic process involving ideational activity in problem solving evolved out of a train of ideas, is associated with the brain. The body, tongue, eyes, nose and ears, sensory organs and sensory actions and reactions associated with such organs are common for all human beings. The behaviour, i.e., any response made by an organism resulting in a movement or complex of movements is the culmination of such sensory reactions. Thus, they have common urges, drives and desires to attain common things for life, existence, sustenance and development. Here, because of hereditary and environmental factors

coupled with modern deceit for the exploitation of men, matter and nature, various problems are to be faced by them. But, at the same time, the same problems have definitely made men to understand that they are one and hence such problems have to be tackled collectively. Now, let us deal with such modern problems.

POPULATION

By the end of this century, the world population is expected to reach the 7500 million mark! Population growth is directly connected with the socio-economic and political factors. As there is no corresponding growth in food production, industrial development and provision of shelter, third world countries face the problems of human mobility. This includes regular and irregular migration, infiltration, brain-drain, refugees and *lebensraum*⁵, resulting in international conflicts. As advanced nations have been planning zero growth rate, other nations have their own responsibility in controlling population.

EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Oil and mineral resources, essential and rare metal extraction, distribution of such items, fixation of prices and other connected activities are affected by various ideological factors. Nature has given all its resources only for the benefit of all humanity without any discrimination. But, men should not interfere with the natural systems. If they continue in such activities of exploitation, they would be also destroyed just like the civilisations of the Indus valley, Sumeria and Egypt. Therefore, considering the situation, nations should stop disturbing the ecological balances and honestly distribute natural

resources to all for the welfare of world community.

ENVIRONMENT

According to International law⁶, there are prohibitions for causing damage to another state through the use of environment on one's own territory, the circulation of obscene publications, stationing of weapons of mass destruction in outer space, the use of environmental modification techniques for military or any other purposes incompatible with International security and the people's well-being and health, pollution of atmospheric air, and so on. But, we have the problems of toxic gases, CFC, Ozone hole controversy, nuclear hazards and water pollution. As the environmental problems affect the entire humanity as a whole, they have to be tackled for the posterity and for the well-being of those now living.

MAN-MADE DISEASES

Many advancements have been made in the fields of medicine and medical systems. With more and more such advancements, more and more new diseases are also created. Indeed, some diseases like AIDS are exported to other nations. Though, men have been living on this earth for millions of years or thousands of years in the historical sense, perhaps, for the first time we are coming across so many diseases with Greek garb. More hospitals have also come up only to exploit men, as morality has been consigned to oblivion along with conscience. Instead of approaching human problems with human solutions, attempts are made to justify wrong-doings by deceptive arguments. Why a wrong has been done is not analysed, but, it is justified on a (bad) precedence. This attitude is very dangerous. Therefore,

understanding the critical social conditions of the world, people should come together to eradicate the social evils done against moral values. Men, women and children should be taught more about moral values, ethical way of social life and spiritual code of human life. Then, naturally, they could understand the problems of humanity, to fight against the man-made diseases. Though AIDS is a despicable disease, it has indirectly united the world community to fight against it. Similarly, programmes can be chalked out to eradicate measles, small pox, cancer and other diseases from the earth. If the world community as a whole works sincerely, definitely, they can be controlled and eradicated, so that people live peacefully on Mother Earth.

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Nuclear, chemical, bacteriological and other weapons are considered as weapons of mass destruction. During the early 80s, the U.S took the arms race in outer space with the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI). Under the guise of defence initiative actually a programme was designed to secure the impunity of a U.S. first nuclear strike. Ironically, MX missiles were christened as peace missiles. One wonders how peace breakers can make peace. In spite of all contradictions, now a situation has reached, where all unanimously feel that the WMD should be totally curbed, if not eliminated, because everybody knows that no nuclear war can be won, as first of all, it cannot be fought on the earth. There would be no survivor to witness the victory! Knowing the portent, many anti-war and nuclear missiles demonstrations have been held and ICBMs dismantled.

PANATICISM, FUNDAMENTALISM AND TERRORISM *

Now almost every nation is threatened with some or the other kind of terrorist activity. Interestingly, all such terrorist activities are connected with fanatic and fundamentalist groups, which have been inspired by the linguistic, religious and ethnic ideologies. Previously, psychologists considered aggression as the most dangerous form of violation of peace. Now, they have recognised terrorism as the most heinous crime committed on humanity and the worst act of violation of human rights. Today, we see how even some nations have been engaged in state sponsored terrorism. Under the guise of countering terrorism, more terrorism is created to terrorise people. Fundamentalists have started exporting terrorism. Under the guise of 'revolution' also terrorism is justified in theocratic and communist states, where only human right violations of the terrorists are talked about forgetting the terrorist inflicted human beings. At international level, many religious organisations have been engaged in aiding and abetting terrorists, exporting 'revolution'⁷, and trying to enact the battle of Armageddon through a nuclear war⁸. As terrorism not only takes the lives of innocent people, but also destabilizes international relations and the internal situation in many nations, it has become an important international humanitarian problem.

TRADE WARS

Advanced nations have started adapting and adopting various threatening and blackmailing methods to exploit developing and third world nations. Through different fronts like E.E.C, G-7 OPEC, etc., they have

been controlling the production of essential commodities, oil and rare earths. With protectionism, patent registration and laws, Super-301 and other trade ideologies, they want to impose trade restrictions and embargos. Sanctioning loans through international monetary organisations, they dictate terms on trade, entangle in debt traps and exploit through compelled exports. But, slowly the commercially exploited nations have started understanding the trade wars and have decided to defend themselves. The international community has also started supporting them, appreciating the basic needs of humanity.

PROPAGANDA AND IDEOLOGICAL WARFARE

Print and electronic media has become a powerful aid to control and manipulate the thought process of humanity. No doubt, it has brought the world people very close together, but at the same time, it is rather misused to impose Western culture on others. Through such culture, the evils of the West are percolated to corrupt the minds of others. Sex, violence and drugs are portrayed as a symbol of social prestige, just like smoking, drinking and dating were portrayed some decades back. Instead of doing good, it is doing more harm to the world community. As the mass media is also used for the propaganda purposes, politically, a mis-information campaign is carried on to destabilise any particular nation. Therefore, responsible world citizens should evolve a code about the depiction, propagation and broadcast of programmes, so that the minds of present and coming generations are not spoiled. Though according to International laws, there are many provisions, because of the

brutal and arrogant power of dominating nations, they cannot be implemented. At least with this move, let us hope to save our world society. Let noble thoughts come from all sides and they be spread all over the world for the benefit of the world family.

TACKLING DIVIDING FACTORS AND PROBLEMS OF HUMANITY

Above, first, we have considered the dividing factors of and then, the problems faced by the present day world population. With mutual respect, tolerance and broad-mindedness, all dividing factors can easily be converted into uniting factors. The problems enumerated have definitely made men to think about the unity of humanity. There are people, who have already decided to erase the boundaries of the existing nations, so that a 'world nation' may be formed in which all men have equal rights and opportunity. Research carried out by the U.S. Scientist, Ruth L. Sivard, shows that a 5% reduction of military spending by all states would yield an extra \$15,000,000,000 per annum. This money would be enough to provide adequate food to 200,000,000 children; increase agricultural output in the developing nations, where 400,000,000 people are on the verge of starvation; build new primary schools to accommodate an extra 100,000,000 children; render immediate aid to the nations suffering from natural calamities; carry out an international disease-prevention programme; wipe out illiteracy among 25,000,000 adults in the developing nations; mount a worldwide campaign to eradicate malaria; build up the health of 300,000,000 women and children by adding preparations containing iron to their food supply, much-needed

vitamins to 100,000,000 children aged one to five and threatened blindness⁹. Really these facts and figures are thought - provoking. The leadership of the nations, which spends more for their military build-up should change its attitude of world domination and come forward for spending for the poor nations.

THE IDEAL OF HUMAN UNITY

Sri Aurobindo under this title has elaborately dealt with various aspects of human unity. He has discussed the possibility of a world-empire, world-union or world-state, diversity in oneness, Internationalism and human unity, the religion of humanity and so on.¹⁰ Though, he wrote during 1915 to 1918, considering the then prevailing world conditions, they are exactly applicable to the present day context. The idealistic view of "one humanity, one religion, one culture, one world-state..." may appear anachronistic, but if the world population determine, definitely, it is possible. Otherwise, there is no meaning in writing and reading about **men, humanity, homo sapiens, heredity, environment** and so on by anthropologists, ethnologists, psychologists, sociologists and others.

CONCLUSION OR AN APPEAL TO SCHOLARS *

A careful reader of books on "Origins of Men" can notice how scholars are not consistent with the established standards, but they write according to their motivated, pre-determined and pre-conceived notions to arrive at their own desired conclusions imposing them on the readers. They should either believe in divine origin or evolutionary theories, but, very often they confuse both from time to time shifting their stands in their arguments. Atheist, secular, Marxist and the like category adapt and adopt this type of professional bias in their deliberations. Evidences are mustered only to prove or disprove anything or everything that is favourable or not favourable to one's ideology. As the scholars are the opinion makers influencing decision making authorities throughout the world, they should report the facts without forced conclusions, because, new archaeological discoveries would definitely change the picture. Till such time their intentionally or otherwise drawn conclusions should not damage the interests of humanity, particularly, when we try to unite.

All peoples of the globe together sail the same voyage, are bound for the same destination. What whispers are these, O lands, running ahead of you, passing under the seas? Are all nations communing? Is there going to be one heart to the globe?



- Walt Whitman.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. P. Puchkov, "Peoples that Vanished", Nauka Publishers, Moscow, 1989, p.6.
2. Ishopanishad, verse 1.
3. Table of the Relation and Absolute Dates of the Stages in the Evolution of Ancient Man's Morphology and Culture

Historical stage	Archaeological stage	Evolutionary stage	Absolute dates (thousand years)
Primitive	Early stages of proto horde	Autralopithecus Lower palaeolithic	4,000,000 about 2,000,000
Early Primitive horde	Later Stages of Lower Palaeolithic	Pithecanthropus	about 2,000,000,- 200,000.
Developed Primitive horde	Middle palaeolithic	Neanderthal man	200,000 -40,000
Primitive Community	Upper palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze	Modern man	40,000-5000

V.P Alexeev, "The Origin of the Human Race", Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1986, p.57.

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5. Lebensraum-Territory which the Germans believed was needed for their natural development as a nation. Now, the Muslims all over the world justify their actions of infiltration and immigration based on this concept, but, according to Islam.
6. A Dictionary of International Law, Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1982.
7. Ayatollah Khomeini, "Islam and Revolution" (Translated and Annotated by Hamid Algar), Mizan Press, Berkeley, California.
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10. Sri Aurobindo, "The Human Cycle, The Ideal of Human Unity, War and Self-Determination", Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry, 1962.

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